

Certain activities in navigable waters are exempt from needing a permit under chapter 30, Wisconsin Statutes. Using this checklist, you can determine if your project qualifies for an exemption.

Your proposed **wildlife nesting structure** is eligible for an exemption if your project will meet all the following conditions:

- ☐ The nesting structure may not be located in an area of special natural resource interest (ASNRI) – see the Designated Waters Search on DNR’s website to determine if your waterway is an ASNRI or has another special designation.
- ☐ The nesting structure may be placed and maintained only by a riparian.
- ☐ The nesting structure shall be placed entirely within the riparian’s zone of interest.
- ☐ The nesting structure must be placed solely for the purpose of improving wildlife habitat.
- ☐ A deposit of sand, gravel or stone may be associated with the placement of a nesting structure provided the deposit is limited to the area underneath or within one foot of the structure and is less than 2 cubic yards.
- ☐ Dredging is allowed for the placement of a nesting structure provided the dredging does not exceed 2 cubic yards.
- ☐ The surface area of a nesting structure may not exceed 25 square feet.
- ☐ Nesting structures shall be designed and constructed of unpainted wood or of materials that are non-gloss earthtone colors that blend into a natural shoreline setting during leaf-on conditions.
- ☐ Proper erosion control measures shall be used during installation (to prevent soils from eroding into the waterway), removed after work is complete, and any disturbed areas restored.

Note: Wood duck houses and nesting platforms attached to or supported by existing trees in their natural condition do not require a permit.

Note: Wildlife habitat projects authorized under ch. NR 353 relating to wetland conservation activities are not subject to these requirements.

If your project does not meet all of these conditions, submit a permit application to the Department.

If you have any questions about whether you meet these conditions, you may request an Exemption Determination from DNR. Obtain Form 3500-107, “Chapter 30 Exemption Determination Request” from a DNR service center, or download it from our website at www.dnr.wi.gov under the topic “Waterway and Wetland Permits.” Complete the form and submit it to the DNR office identified on the form.